

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Automated search technique for discovering patent-relevant publications on the Internet. A search client resident on an end-user station initiates linked searches for patent language and Web documents in a manner transparent to a user. From the user's perspective, a patent-identifying attribute, such as an inventor name, assignee name or patent number, input on an end-user station automatically returns Web document identifiers, such as Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). The Web document search may be conducted in a database including Web document summaries or in a database including full-text Web documents.